

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete the paragraph on page 24, line 14, to page 25, line 11, and replace it with the following paragraph:

Ribozyme constructs

A hammerhead ribozyme (termed Rz10 (SEQ ID NO:29) designed to target a large conserved open loop structure in the RNA from the coding regions of the gene was cloned subsequent to synthesis and annealing into the HindIII and XbaI sites of pCDNA3 again allowing expression of RNA from the T7 or CMV promoter in the vector (SEQ ID NO:4). The target site was GUC (the GUX rule) at position 475-477 (nucleotides 369-371 of SEQ ID NO:1) of the human rhodopsin sequence. Note there is a one base mismatch in one antisense arm of Rz10. A hammerhead ribozyme (termed Rz20 (SEQ ID NO:30) designed to target an open loop structure in RNA from the coding region of a mutant rhodopsin gene with a Pro23Leu mutation was cloned subsequent to synthesis and annealing into the HindIII and XbaI sites of pCDNA3 again allowing expression of RNA from the T7 or CMV promoter in the vector (SEQ ID NO:5). The target site was CTC (the NUX rule) at codon 23 (nucleotides 216-218 of SEQ ID NO:3) of the human rhodopsin sequence (Accession number: K02281). Antisense flanks are underlined.

Rz10: GGTCGGTCTGATGAGTCCGTGAGGACGAAACGTAGAG (SEQ ID NO:29;
~~nucleotides 101-137 of SEQ ID NO:4)~~

Rz20: TACTCGAACTGATGAGTCCGTGAGGACGAAAGGCTGC (SEQ ID NO:30;
~~nucleotides 104-140 of SEQ ID NO:5)~~

Please delete the paragraph on page 28, lines 1-16, and replace it with the following paragraph:

Ribozyme constructs

Hammerhead ribozymes (termed Rz30 and Rz31)(SEQ ID NOs: 32 and 33, respectively), designed to target robust open loop structures in the RNA from the coding regions of the gene, were cloned subsequent to synthesis and annealing into the HindIII and XbaI sites of pCDNA3 again allowing expression of RNA from the T7 or CMV promoter in the vector (SEQ ID NOS:14 and 15, respectively). The target sites were both CTA (the NUX rule) at positions 255-257 and 357-359 respectively of the human peripherin sequence. (Accession number: M73531). Antisense flanks are underlined.

Rz30: ACTTTCAGCTGATGAGTCCGTGAGGACGAAAGCGCCA(SEQ ID NO:32;
~~nucleotides 116-153 of SEQ ID NO:14)~~

Rz31: ACAGTCCCTGATGAGTCCGTGAGGACGAAAGGCTGAA (SEQ ID NO:33;
nucleotides 112-148 of SEQ ID NO:15)

Please delete the paragraph on page 43, lines 1-7, and replace it with the following paragraph:

Figure 20:

The human peripherin DNA fragment (SEQ ID NO:~~14~~13) with a base change at a silent site (359) (nucleotide 468 of SEQ ID NO:13). The sequence quality was not good in the region of the human peripherin 359 silent change (nucleotide 468 of SEQ ID NO:13) - the sequencing primer was too far from the target site to achieve good quality sequence.

Please delete the paragraph on page 43, lines 8-9, and replace it with the following paragraph:

Figure 21:

Rz30 cloned into pcDNA3 (SEQ ID NO:~~42~~14)

Please delete the paragraph on page 43, lines 10-11, and replace it with the following paragraph:

Figure 22:

Rz31 cloned into pcDNA3 (SEQ ID NO:~~43~~15)

Please delete the paragraph on page 43, lines 12-15, and replace it with the following paragraph:

Figure 23:

Collagen 1A2 (A) sequence containing the A polymorphism at position 907. (SEQ ID NO:~~44~~16) (Note there is an additional polymorphic site at position 902).

Please delete the paragraph on page 43, lines 16-19, and replace it with the following paragraph:

Figure 24:

Collagen 1A2 (B) sequence containing the T polymorphism at position 907. (SEQ ID NO:~~45~~17) (Note there is an additional polymorphic site at position 902).